

Professor Emerson

ENG 110

15 November 2018

TITLE

Beauty is defined in the dictionary as a combination of qualities such as shape, color, and form that pleases one's senses and eye. But is beauty more? Can a person learn from beauty? How do interpretation and perception play a role in society? In John Armstrong's essay "La Bella Vita" he explores how one looks at beauty and the responses it causes within the brain and the role that causes within society. I believe beauty can be interpreted in different ways based on perception which is gained through connections in a community leading to variations in society.

Armstrong believes beauty is made up from both the sense drive and form drive of the brain which gives different perceptions in society. Friedrich Schiller ideas from *On the Aesthetic Education of Man in a Series of Letters* were highly influential in Armstrong's understanding of beauty. Schiller wanted to find out what drives the response a person has to something beautiful, he came up with the sense and form drives to explain it. He believed that the sense drive represented one part of reactions. "There is the 'sense' drive which lives in the moment and seeks immediate gratification. It craves contact and possession"(Armstrong 2). The sense drive represents the emotional immediate response to something beautiful along with motivation to understand it. The sense drive works with the form drive to explain the powerful impulses of beauty. The form drive is explained as something that is more thought out. "The second drive identified by Schiller was the 'form' drive: the inner demand for coherence over time, for abstract understanding and rational order"(Armstrong 2). The form drive is meant to be the part of the brain

Commented [1]: Organization: I like the idea of you asking questions as some of the first sentences to introduce your argument.

Commented [2]: Ideas: I like this stance and this thesis is well thought out, however, you should mention your personal definition of beauty. Since there are so many, what is yours? Include this in your first paragraph.

Commented [3]: Evidence: This is a great summary of the sense and form drives. I was a little confused on them when I was writing my own paper, however, this sort of cleared things up for me. And the quotes you used worked well to really summarize your ideas.

responsible for sensible thoughts that are constructed over time after thinking. The form drive strives to find the order and due process of an ideal. The form drive and sense drive are used together in order for a person to understand what they find beautiful. The emotional first response and thoughts after some thinking come together to build a person's perception on something they find beautiful. All people have different brains so people's interpretations from their perceptions from both drives could differ causing contrasting opinions in society.

I believe that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. People see things differently based on their own perceptions. I see beauty as something intangible not tangible. I believe that beauty is not on the surface or an object it is something deeper within that you must find. For example, when I look at a picture of me and my friends from high school from our senior prom night my immediate reaction is to smile. But it isn't because we all look pretty in our dresses with our hair and make up down. I smile because I think of the memories of that night and how strong our friendship is that is the intangible beauty behind the picture not the picture itself. [Heather Sadlier](#), an education professor from the University of New England believes that beauty matters. She believes that beauty can be seen differently, as a photographer, she looks at her subjects and feels beauty must be protected. She associates emotions such as, awe and gratitude when interacting with beauty. Heather's perspective on beauty reiterates me believe of intangible beauty and how people see things differently. Beauty can be seen differently by numerous people leading to societal differences about beauty.

Beauty can cause people to view things differently within society as individuals. I believe beauty is reached and found after critical thinking about the emotions a subject evokes. According to Ed Yong in his essay "Beauty is in the Brain the Beholder" the brain works to understand beauty. "Several studies have linked the mOFC to beauty, but this is a sizeable part of the brain with many

Commented [4]: Ideas: Possibly try to include some more analysis about how these forms relate to your point. You have two sentences that work well here, but consider adding more so that the point of the paragraph was not just to simply explain the sense and form drive.

Commented [5]: Evidence: This is a quote from Armstrong so make sure to cite it!

Commented [6]: Organization: This may be a good spot to identify who you consider your community and introduce what they consider beautiful.

roles. It's also involved in our emotions, our feelings of reward and pleasure, and our ability to make decisions". The mOFC or medial orbitofrontal cortex is used along with emotions to process what the brain perceives as beautiful. Beauty is something that can also be reached in oneself. If you are happy with the beauty within and the person you are you can find beauty in others and different things. [William Johnson](#), an area coordinator at the University of New England, feels beauty is reached and found by self-definition. He feels that once you look in the mirror and are happy with what is underneath the surface then you have reached the ultimate state of beauty. Using both your brain and emotions to find beauty in yourself and others is something that is powerful. Interpretations and perceptions regarding self and exterior forces leads to differing stances on beauty within society.

Commented [7]: Ideas: This sentence is very powerful. It is a nice way to end the paragraph.

In modern society people perceive things based on image. Many people view beauty as something that needs to be displayed. Most people are becoming more and more concerned over social media and what it means to be beautiful. Girls post pictures that are edited to make themselves look "better" in order to get more followers and become popular. To me this is stupid. Just be who you are. It shouldn't matter what anyone thinks you should be happy with your appearance not change it in a picture to what you think the public deems as acceptable. Body shaming has become a problem that needs to be addressed. No one should feel uncomfortable in their body but unfortunately some due based on society standards. Beauty to mean should not be based on appearance but what is on the inside. Beauty is viewed as a social signifier relating to popularity but it shouldn't be. Beauty should be considered within art and literature as well as character. If you have a kind beautiful soul then you are beautiful. Beauty is not a luxury in my opinion. Beauty is something to experience and enjoy. To look at something beautiful or to be

Commented [8]: Ideas: This is very important and relevant to society right now, consider dedicating more of your essay to this.

Commented [9]: Organization: It looks like this may be one of your definitions of beauty. Is it? Consider referencing it in the first paragraph.

Commented [10]: Idea: This is a central idea. Dive deeper into this. What are you getting at?



beautiful yourself is what the true potential of what beauty is. People perception and interpretation of one's character should influence society not the outside appearance.

Overall, Beauty is something that is reached and explained by the mind from thoughts and emotions. Every person can look at something and experience something different which can lead to do different interpretations of what is beautiful within society. Beauty is found and experienced by an individual which then allows for diversity within society.

Commented [11]: Ideas: To make this paragraph, stronger and more lengthy, consider referencing who your community is and how they would define beauty. This is a big part of this essay.

Peer Review Note (Olivia): The ideas within this essay are strong. You take a stance that is pretty unique in that the main argument of your essay is that there are infinite definitions of beauty. However, make sure when you revise that you make sure you have dedicated a good amount of your essay to your personal definition of beauty. Ask yourself, there are so many definitions of beauty, but what is mine? I think you touched on a few possible definitions but make it more clear for the reader. Also, make sure you directly mention your community and how they would define beauty. That is a key part of this essay as well: does your community agree or no? Your essay is organized effectively in that your topic sentences flowed well and your transitional sentences reminded me what I will be hearing about in the section to follow. You used a nice variety of sources, but consider adding a few more quotes, especially from Armstrong and your podcasts. It will only make your essay stronger.